GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4279
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
UTILISATION OF WASTELAND FOR CULTIVATION
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The area of the waste land utilised and brought under cultivation since the setting up of the wasteland Development Board ;

(b) The status of the projects launched under the integrated wasteland Development Scheme for the largest non-forest area situated in the watershed zones; and

(c) The future schemes and programmes of the Government for wasteland Development and the reaction of the Government in regard to the implementation thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NAKENDRA)

(a) & (b): The National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) was transferred to Ministry of Rural Development as Department of Wastelands Development in July, 1992 for implementation of Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP). This programme was brought under common guidelines for implementation on watershed basis w.e.f. 1.4.1995. Accordingly, number of projects sanctioned and area taken up for treatment between July, 1992 to 1995 and from 1.4.1995 till date are given as below:

Period	Number of projects - sanctioned	Area (in ha.)
(i) 1992-31.3.1995	128	480552
(ii) 1.4.1995 -till date	662	5078831

These wastelands development projects are mandated to tackle the problems of land degradation, soil & moisture conservation, restoration of ecological balance, enhance the productivity of land, etc.

(c) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India - 2000, 63.85 million hectares of land has been delineated as wastelands. Out of which treatable land of 24.80 million hectares are required to be treated under IWDP and this scheme is expected to continue. In view of this, there is no proposal for any new scheme at present for wasteland development.